

Overweight and obese pre-pregnancy BMI is associated with higher hospital costs of childbirths in England

Overweight and obesity among women of childbearing age have been on an ascending trend. From a health perspective, evidence strongly suggests that elevated pre-pregnancy BMI levels lead to poor pregnancy and birth outcomes. However, very few studies have looked at the costs associated with these pregnancies. The aim of this paper was to investigate the association between pre-pregnancy BMI and hospital costs of childbirth in England.

This study was conducted using the Millennium Cohort Study and included 7,564 mothers. Overall, the majority of women in the sample had a normal pre-pregnancy BMI. After controlling for various socio-demographic and economic factors, women with overweight, obese class I and obese class II and III pre-pregnancy BMI incurred higher childbirth costs in the region of £22, £82 and £126 respectively. In addition to greater delivery complications, it therefore appears that pre-pregnancy overweight and obesity also leads to higher costs.

Reference: Solmi F, Morris S. Overweight and obese pre-pregnancy BMI is associated with higher hospital costs of childbirth in England. *BMC Pregnancy Childbirth*. 2018;18(1):253. [doi:10.1186/s12884-018-1893-z](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12884-018-1893-z)